

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:41

ANSWERED ON:17.10.2008

MONITORING OF ARWSP PROJECTS BY PRIs

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide technical and financial support to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for implementation and monitoring of drinking water schemes in rural areas;
- (b) if so, whether any action plan has been drawn up therefor;
- (c) if so, the progress made in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has any role in monitoring of above schemes prepared by State Governments; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) to (c): Rural water supply is a State subject. With 73rd Amendment in the Constitution of India, rural water supply has been placed in the 11th Schedule of the Constitution to be transferred to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under the Centrally-sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Under ARWSP, power to plan, approve, implement, monitor and manage the water supply systems rests with the States. The Government has approved proposal for signing MoUs with States that would lay out road maps for implementation, management, operation and maintenance of drinking water supply schemes through PRIs. The proposed memoranda include commitment on the part of the State Governments towards development of policies for involving PRIs in a phased manner. This road map also includes the training of PRIs functionaries for water quality monitoring and surveillance, record keeping, matters relating to operation & maintenance of water supply systems, collection of user charges, etc.

(d) to (e): The Ministry of Rural Development has also set up Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State and district levels to monitor various schemes/ programmes of the Ministry inter alia which includes ARWSP.